

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS EGEN UNGA MR

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER: EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT: SECRETARY'S SPECIAL U.N.

SESSION SPEECH

REF: SECTO 10289; STATE 207669; STATE 207722; NOUAKCHOTT 1711;

STATE 209268

1. TO CELEBRATE HIS RETURN TO HIS NOUAKCHOTT OFFICE (FROM KAMPALA VIA LIMA) AND MARK HIS INTENTION TO REMAIN HERE FOR NEXT TWENTY DAYS, MAURITANIAN MINISTER OF STAP FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAMDI OULD MOUKNASS EMBARKED SEPTEMBER 5 ON MARATHON SERIES PERSONAL MEETINGS WITH ALL RESIDENT CHIEFS OF MISSION. PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR PRECEDED ME IN PAADE INTO MINISTER'S OFFICE, AND FRENCH CHARGE WAS WAITING HIS TURN AS I DEPARTED. AFTER INQUIRING ABOUT HEALTH AND WELFARE OF STAFF OF AMERICAN MISSION, MINISTER EXPRESSED GIRM'S AND HIS PERSONAL APPRECIATION FOR CONTINUING WARM WELCOME USG HAS ACCORDED MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR OULD ABDALLAH, OBSERVING WITH A SMILE "YOUR WASHINGTON COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN SO GENEROUS THEY HAVE SPOILED HIM".

2. AS FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS, MOUKNASS ASKED IF I HAD

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ANY DETAILSOF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

WHICH I COULD SHARE WITH HIM. OBLIGED TO REPLY THAT TO DATE MY KNOWLEDGE WAS LIMITED TO GENERAL IMPRESSIONS GLEANED MOSTLY FROM PRESS AND RADIO, I NOTED THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED ONLY YESTERDAY, AND OBSERVED THAT WASHINGTON HAD UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN, AND FOR VERY UNDERSTANDABLE REASONS, RELUCTANT TO DISSEMINATE ANY DESCRIPTION OF DETAILED PROVISIONS UNTIL AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED AND SEALED. I AGREED TO TELEPHONE MINISTER TO ARRANGE FOLLOW-ON CONVERSATION AS SOON AS I RECEIVED INFORMATION HE DESIRED.

3. TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF THIS ALL TOO RARE MEETING TO CALL MINISTER'S ATTENTION TO SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO SPECIAL SESSION OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TO HAND HIM FRENCH TEXT.(MANY THANKS TO ALL HANDS FOR ORGANIZING ARRIVAL OF WIRELESS FILE TELTYPE COPY VIA COURIER POUCH LATE LAST NIGHT.) DRAWING PARTICULARLY ON PARAGRAPHS THREE AND FOUR OF STATE 207699, I DESCRIBED SPEECH AS MAJOR NEW INITIATIVE, NOTING IT CONTAINED SOME 30 CONCRETE ACTION PROPOSALS, AND STRESSED US DESIRE AND DETERMINATION TO MOVE FROM CONFRONTATION WITH LDGS AND UNPRODUCTIVE DEBATES OVER ECONOMIC THEORY AND PHILOSOPHY TO QUIET, POSITIVE DISCUSSIONS OF RANGE OF COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT ISSUES IN SEARCH FOR PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO REAL PROBLEMS. NOTED USG VERY MUCH WANTED TO HEAR VIEWS AND IDEAS OF OTHERS INVOLVED IN THESE PROBLEMS AND STOOD READY TO STUDY PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS. CONCLUDED WITH OBSERVATION THAT USG WAS NOT SEEKING APPROVAL OF FULL INVENTORY OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS AT THIS STATE, BUT INSTEAD HOPED TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT ON OPENING OF MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IN ORDER TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO MINISTER'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PROVISIONS OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, REQUEST DEPARTMENT CABLE BY MID-WEEK AS FULL A DESCRIPTION OF AGREEMENT AS WE ARE AT LIBERTY TO SHARE WITH ARAB LEAGUE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS FRIENDLY TO US. WHILE GIRM WILL NEVER MOUNT BARRICADES TO DEFEND EGYPTIANS AGAINST RADICAL ARAZ, IT MIGHT, IF IT HAD THE FACTS, SCREW UP
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THE COURAGE TO FEND OFF THE INEVITABLE RADICAL PRESSURES TO OPPOSE SADAT STANCE, AND MIGHT EVEN SUPPORT MODERATE APPROACH TO SEARCH FOR MID-EAST PEACE WITHIN ARAB COUNCILS.HANDYSIDE

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